

Regular Session, 2013

HOUSE BILL NO. 590

BY REPRESENTATIVE HUNTER

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

AGRICULTURE: Provides an agricultural initiative for veterans

1 AN ACT

2 To enact Subpart K of Part II of Chapter 30 of Title 3 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of  
3 1950, to be comprised of R.S. 3:4741 through 4745, relative to an agricultural  
4 initiative for veterans of the armed forces of the United States of America; to provide  
5 for findings; to provide for definitions; to provide for poultry grower contracts with  
6 poultry processing plants; to provide for certain requirements for participation in the  
7 agriculture initiative; to provide for rules and regulations; and to provide for related  
8 matters.

9 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

10 Section 1. R.S. 3:4741 through 4745 are hereby enacted to read as follows:

11 SUBPART K. AGRICULTURAL INITIATIVES FOR VETERANS

12 §4741. Legislative findings and purpose

13 A. Louisiana residents rely on Louisiana agricultural growers and processors  
14 as a source of safe, nutritional, and affordable food. Furthermore, agriculture  
15 industries are a major source of employment for Louisiana residents of rural  
16 parishes, provide economic resources that contribute greatly to the quality of life,  
17 and improve the socioeconomic well-being in rural communities.

18 B. Veterans of the armed forces of the United States of America answered  
19 the call to duty and sacrificed greatly to defend the freedom enjoyed by all citizens.

20 As a way to recognize their selfless service, this agriculture initiative aims to create

economic opportunities in rural parishes and improve employment of Louisiana veterans engaged in agribusiness as poultry growers.

§4742. Definitions

As used in this Part, the following terms shall have the following meanings, except where the context expressly indicates otherwise:

(1) "Commissioner" means the commissioner of the Department of Agriculture and Forestry.

(2) "Poultry grower" means any person engaged in the business of raising poultry on their own farm for sale under contract to a poultry processing plant.

(3) "Poultry grow out house" means any large, specialized structure built to certain specifications and maintained by the poultry grower for the purpose of growing chicks to market weight.

(4) "Poultry processing plant" means any person, firm, or corporation engaged in the business of manufacturing or processing poultry derived wholly or in part from carcasses, or parts or products of carcasses of poultry.

(5) "Veteran" means a resident of this state who has evidence of a record of service in the armed forces of the United States of America.

§4743. Poultry processing plant; agriculture initiative contracts

If a poultry processing plant located in this state has received any economic development incentive or grant monies from the state within the previous ten years, the plant shall offer up to forty percent of poultry grower contracts to poultry growers who are veterans of the armed forces of the United States of America. In order to receive such agriculture initiative contracts, poultry growers must meet the requirements listed in R.S. 3:4744.

§4744. Requirements for agriculture initiative contracts

A poultry grower shall meet the following criteria for agriculture initiative contract eligibility:

(1) The poultry grower shall be a veteran of the armed forces of the United States of America as defined in this Part.

1                   (2) The poultry grower shall have been engaged for at least fifteen years in  
2                   the business of raising poultry for sale to a commercial poultry processing plant.

3                   (3) There shall be three or more poultry grow out houses owned and operated  
4                   on the poultry grower's property, of which fewer than fifty percent are in current  
5                   production, and the property shall be located within one hundred miles of the poultry  
6                   processing plant.

7                   (4) Poultry grow out houses located on the poultry grower's property shall  
8                   meet all code and sanitary standards as prescribed by law.

9                   §4745. Promulgation of rules and regulations

10                  In accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act, the commissioner may  
11                  adopt rules and regulations necessary to implement and enforce the provisions of this  
12                  Subpart.

#### DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

Hunter

HB No. 590

**Abstract:** Provides for agriculture initiative contracts awarded by poultry processing plants for veterans of the armed forces of the United States of America who are poultry growers.

Proposed law provides for poultry grower contracts awarded by poultry processing plants as an agriculture initiative for veterans of the armed forces of the U.S.

Proposed law defines of "Commissioner", "Poultry grower", "Poultry grow out house", "Poultry processing plant", and "Veteran".

Proposed law requires poultry processing plants that have received any economic development incentive or grant monies within the last ten years to offer up to 40% of poultry grower contracts to poultry growers who are veterans of the armed forces of the U.S.

Proposed law requires poultry growers to meet the following requirements for agriculture initiative contract eligibility:

- (1) Be a veteran of the armed forces of the U.S.
- (2) Engaged in the business of raising poultry for sale to a commercial poultry processing plant for a minimum of 15 years.
- (3) Own and operate at least three poultry grow out houses, of which fewer than 50% are in current production, located on the grower's property within 100 miles of the processing plant.

- (4) Possess verification that all poultry grow out house have met code and sanitary standards as prescribed by law.

Proposed law authorizes the commissioner to adopt rules and regulations necessary to implement and enforce the provisions of proposed law.

(Adds R.S. 3:4741-4745)